

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Previously Presented) Method for establishing a connection between a calling party and a called party in a H.323 network wherein the gatekeepers are arranged in a hierarchical manner, the method comprising:
  - receiving by a first gatekeeper a Set-up command issued from a connected calling user,
  - performing a user location algorithm by said first gatekeeper on its locally attached users,
  - if this algorithm fails, sending a Location Request message to its lower level gatekeepers, wherein each lower level gatekeeper performs an user location algorithm on its attached users and lower level gatekeepers,
  - if these user location algorithms fail, sending a Location Request message to its higher level gatekeeper, which performs an user location algorithm on its attached users and gatekeepers except the originating gatekeeper,
  - if one of the user location algorithms succeeds, the gatekeeper concerned a Location Confirm message to the first gatekeeper,
  - the first gatekeeper sending a Set-up message to the gatekeeper which has issued the Location Confirm message, which gatekeeper forwards said Set-up message to the called user, whereupon said connection is established.
3. (Previously Presented) Method for establishing a connection between a calling party and a called party in a H.323 network wherein the gatekeepers are arranged in a hierarchical manner the method comprising,

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receiving by a first gatekeeper a Set-up command issued from a connected calling user,

performing a user location algorithm on its locally attached users and lower level gatekeepers,

if this user location algorithm fails, forwarding the call by said first gatekeeper to its higher level gatekeeper, which performs an user location algorithm on its attached users and gatekeepers except the originating gatekeeper,

if one of the user location algorithms succeeds, said higher level gatekeeper forwards said Setup message to the called user, whereupon said connection is established.